

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/942,924	BRAVIN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Huyen X. Vo	2655	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 9/28/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 7-12, 19-27, and 34-35, now amended 1-17.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with applicant's representative, Mr. Mark A. Ekse, on 12/19/2005. The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 1-6, 13-18, 28-33, and 36-40 have been cancelled.

Claims 7, 19, and 34 have been amended as follows:

7. In a relay system, a method of facilitating communications between a calling party and a called party using an interpreter, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request from the calling party for communicating with the called party;
attempting to establish communications with the called party and receiving an unavailable status of the called party;

responsive to receiving the unavailable status, translating a voice communication into a sign language or vice versa, and generating at least one of a sign language message for storage in a video storage device and an audio message for storage in a voice mail device corresponding to a message mode identifier;

retrieving a user-specific subscriber profile corresponding to at least one of the calling party and the called party, the user-specific subscriber profile comprising attribute data of the corresponding at least one of the calling party and the called party; and

retrieving and relaying the at least one of the sign language message and the audio message to the called party responsive to receiving the message mode identifier based on at least one of said attribute data.

19. A remote video interpreting system to facilitate communications between a first party and a second party, comprising:

a video communication platform for displaying and receiving real-time sign language data via a first relay link;

a relay center being connected to the first relay link and a second relay link, the first relay link for receiving the real-time sign language data from the first party so that the real-time sign language data can be converted into a spoken message, and the second relay link for receiving voice communications from the second party so that the voice communications can be converted into a sign language data;

a video storage processor coupled to the relay center, the video storage processor for storing the sign language data converted from the voice communications received from the second party when the first party is unavailable and for providing the stored sign language data for the first party responsive to receiving a message mode identifier indicating availability of the first party;

a voice mail server coupled to the relay center, the voice mail server for storing the spoken message converted from the real-time sign language data received from the first party when the second party is unavailable and for providing the stored spoken message to the second party responsive to receiving a message mode identifier indicating availability of the second party.

34. In a relay system, a method of facilitating communications between a calling party and a called party using an interpreter, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request from the calling party for communicating with the called party;

retrieving a user-specific profile corresponding to the called party;

attempting to establish communications with the called party based on the user-specific profile and receiving an unavailable status of the called party;

responsive to receiving the unavailable status, translating a voice communication into a sign language or vice versa, and storing a sign language message in a video storage device;

transmitting a message waiting signal to the called party; and

connecting the called party to the video storage device based on the user-specific profile so as to view the stored sign language message responsive to receiving a message from the called party.

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Watson et al. (US 6570963) disclose a call center for handling call for speech and hearing impaired subscribers. The call center includes a plurality of terminals connected to a switching system to handle calls. Each of said plurality of terminals includes a computer system that handles video calls from the speech and hearing impaired subscribers and a telephone station that handles voice calls to parties communicating with the speech and hearing impaired subscribers. A call controller connected to the switching system and the plurality of terminals determines which of the plurality of terminals handles an incoming call (*referring to reference*). Liebermann (US 5982853) teaches an electronic communications system for the deaf includes a video apparatus for observing and digitizing the facial, body and hand and finger signing motions of a deaf person, an electronic translator for translating the digitized signing motions into words and phrases, and an electronic output for the words and phrases. The video apparatus desirably includes both a video camera and a video display which will display signing motions provided by translating spoken words of a hearing person into digitized images. The system may function as a translator by outputting the translated words and phrases as synthetic speech at the deaf person's location for another person at that location, and that person's speech may be picked up, translated, and displayed as signing motions on a display in the video apparatus (*referring to reference*). Brunson et al. (US 5760823) teach a system for storing video messages (*see reference*). The three references above fail to specifically disclose a system having the capability of storing both sign

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language messages and voice message when the called party is not available. Stored messages, whether voice or sign language messages, can be retrieved at a later time by the called party. Furthermore, it would have not been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify or combine the three references above to obtain the claimed invention. Therefore, claims 7-12, 19-27, and 34-35 are allowed over prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Huyen X. Vo whose telephone number is 571-272-7631. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9-5:30.

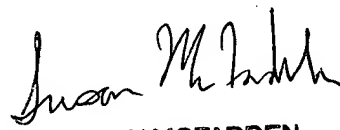
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wayne Young can be reached on 571-272-7582. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

HXV

12/16/2005


SUSAN MCFADDEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER